(c) Time for a few months after the publication of a report is usually allowed for the receipt of criticisms. Whether the scheme report for Guntur should also be discussed in the Legislative Council will be considered after it is received.

Proposals of the Collector of Guntur regarding the revision of water-rates for lands under spring channels in the Guntur district.

* 210 *Q.*—Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government or the Board of Revenue have received any proposals from the District Collector, Guntur, about the revision of water-rates for lands under spring channels;

(b) what orders, if any, have been passed by the Government on the proposals sent by the Collector; and

(c) whether the Government will be pleased to lay a copy of the District Collector's letter on the table of this House?

A.—(a) & (b) The Collector recommended that the rates of water-cess to be charged for irrigation from spring channels in the Bapatla taluk, emanating from sand ridges along the sea coast, should be those prescribed in section A of Appendix I to Board's Standing Order No. 4-2, as amended by G.O. No. 806, Revenue, dated 8th May 1933, which has been placed at the disposal of the Press. The Collector's recommendation has been accepted by Government.

(c) The Government do not consider this necessary.

Hardship due to the introduction of a uniform flat rate of water-tax in the Guntur district.

* 211 *Q.*—Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the introduction of the present uniform flat rate of water-tax has increased the rate per acre from 50 to 100 per cent in many cases;

(b) whether the Government or Board of Revenue have received representations from the District Collector, Guntur, about the hardships to the ryots resulting from such enormous increase in the water rates;

(c) what action the Government have taken on the representations made by the District Collector;

(d) what are the principles underlying the old graded rates of water-tax; and

(e) whether the Government have considered the question of restoring the old rates?

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A.—(a) The Government are not aware that the fact is as suggested.

(b) & (c) No representations have been received by Government from the District Collector. The Government are not aware whether any such representations have been received by the Board of Revenue.

(d) & (e) What is known as the 'differential water-rate system' was in force in the case of Government dry lands in the Kistna and Godavari deltas before the introduction of the new fixed rates of water-cess. The occasion for the introduction of the system in these deltas arose by reason of the fact that before the old resettlement the assessment on the irrigated lands therein was not consolidated as elsewhere in the Presidency and water-cess was kept distinct from the land assessment. This system was found specially unsuited to these deltas at the time because the working of the projects on a dry basis coupled with the option enjoyed by the ryots to take water or not considerably retarded the development of irrigation and the standard rates of water cess which then prevailed in these deltas did not yield a sufficient return on the capital expenditure incurred on the works. With a view to impart a greater fixity to the irrigation revenue derived from these deltas and to bring the system prevailing therein into line with the rest of the Presidency all the lands then regularly irrigated by delta water were assessed at consolidated wet rates at the old resettlement and future extension of irrigation to lands classed as dry was ordered to be charged at the difference between the dry and wet assessments applicable to the particular class and sort of land on the principle that a wet crop raised on dry land should pay the same charge as a wet crop raised on wet land. An additional charge of Re. 1 an acre was, however, levied on the former as an inducement to the ryots to apply for transfer of their dry lands to wet. The differential water-cess system involves the levy of as many rates of water-cess as there are classes and sorts of soil; it is thus unduly complicated, gives room for error and malpractices and makes it difficult for the ryot to understand the principle on which he is charged. It was therefore abandoned in these deltas in favour of a simple set of uniform rates. The Government have no intention of reviving the old system.

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Cdoudari:—"May I ask the hon. Member whether the Government is prepared to advise the Collector to convert temporary wet lands into permanent wet lands?"

* The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"The question of converting these irrigated dry lands into wet lands will be considered as

soon as certain information has been obtained. As has been done in the neighbouring districts, an inclusion fee will probably be demanded from the ryots and, if they pay that fee, a transfer will be made."

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—"Will the Government be pleased to cancel the additional charge of Re. 1 on every acre as is referred to in their answer in clauses (*d*) and (*e*)."

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"No additional charge of Re. 1 is being levied now."

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—"In answer to clauses (*d*) and (*e*) it is stated:—"An additional charge of Re. 1 an acre was however levied on the former as an inducement to the ryots, etc.?"

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"The hon. Member has not correctly understood the answer. What is stated is that under the old system an additional charge of Re. 1 an acre was levied. Now no such extra charge is made."

Reservation of waste lands in South Kanara for assignment to the Adi-Dravidas.

* 212 Q.—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is proposed that waste lands unassigned till now in South Kanara should be reserved for distribution to Adi-Dravidas;

(*b*) if so, in what proportion the land is to be reserved; and

(*c*) whether the existing kumki rights of wargdars and the common pasturages of the villages are to be affected by the said reservation?

A.—(*a*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Press Communiqué, dated the 1st July 1930, published at page 985 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 15th July 1930, regarding the general orders for the reservation of lands for depressed classes. A copy [a] of the Press Communiqué is appended. These orders are applicable to South Kanara district as to other districts. There is no particular proposal of the kind mentioned by the hon. Member.

(*b*) The extent so far reserved in South Kanara district is 31,174·27 acres. There is no fixed proportion observed between the extent reserved and the total extent unassigned. The scales generally adopted for reserving the lands are 125 acres in coast villages and 150 acres in interior villages to a depressed class population of 100. The needs of each village are considered separately.

a Printed as Appendix VII on pages 247–248 infra.